Computing Systems Services Technical Bulletin

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COBOL

Release 2 Modification Level 3 (2.3) of the IBM OS/VS COBOL Compiler will be installed on MVS1 and MVS2 at D.P.D. on Sunday, September 25, 1983. To begin using the new release, please do the following:

In your Compile step, insert the following card:

        //STEPLIB   DD   DSNAME=GP.COB23.LINKLIB,DISP=SHR

In your Link step, insert the following card:

        //SYSLIB   DD   DSNAME=GP.COB23.COBLIB,DISP=SHR

Or, use one of the following JCL cataloged procedures:

        COB23C   COMPILE
        COB23CL   COMPILE, LINK
        COB23CG   COMPILE, GO
        COB23CLG   COMPILE, LINK, GO
        COB23LG   LOAD, GO

Three manuals are available:

GC26-3857 IBM VS COBOL for OS/VS Release 2, 3rd Edition, Dec. 81—$17.00.

SC28-6483 IBM OS/VS COBOL Compiler and Library Programmer's Guide, 3rd Edition, Oct. 81—37.00.

Messages & Codes (Information not yet available).

We would like to encourage all users of COBOL to order new manuals. Please contact Elaine Oaks at 533-6393 for assistance in ordering manuals.

There are currently two versions of COBOL being used on our two mainframe computers. One version is so old, we cannot find any documentation about it or even determine what version it is. For programs being run under this version, they should be recompiled under the new version 2.3 using PARM=LANGLVL(1)—better would be LANGLVL(2) if you can make it work. This parm will go backand pick up most of the older features in the earlier versions of COBOL including ISAM and the original method of coding the "COPY" statement.

The more recent version of COBOL being used (2.2) has been available for approximately 6 to 7 years. For users of 2.2, the transition to 2.3 is not expected to be significant. Programs should be recompiled using PARM-LANGLVL(2). The most important new features of which programmers should be aware is the suggestion that VSAM File Status Codes be checked after all I/O operations such as Read, Write, Open, and Close. Other features which may cause difficulty are those dealing with IBM COBOL Language "extensions".

We would like to permanently install the new COBOL libraries in the computer's automatic search facility on November 1, 1983. This cannot be done, however, until all existing COBOL programs can be run using the new COBOL libraries, else it is likely that required COBOL subroutines will not be found. This also applies to CICS/COBOL programs. It may be possilbe that older programs can be made to work simply by relinking the load modules, but the surest way is to recompile them.

The new version of COBOL has been checked using a good mix of more than 50 programs. We have found programs that were coded with ISAM, VSAM, old programs, new programs, programs using old and new methods of coding the "COPY" statement, and one program which cosisted of over 15,000 statements!